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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **CURRIE HOUSE**

other names/site number **Pagoda House, VDHR site no. 150-19**

2. Location

street & number **1105 Highland Circle** not for publication **N/A**
city or town **Blacksburg** vicinity **N/A**
state **Virginia** code **VA** county **Montgomery** code **121** zip code **24060**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide _x_ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert A. Carter for Hugh C Miller 4/29/94
Signature of certifying official Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): ____________

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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AUG 8 1994
NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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Julie
Signature of certifying official

7-18-94
Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register 9/14/94
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): ___

Signature of Keeper

9/14/94
Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_X_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_X_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	**0**	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	**0**	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register __**0**__

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) _____**N/A**_____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Domestic	**Single dwelling**
Secondary Structure	**Carport**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Domestic	**Single Dwelling**
Secondary Structure	**Carport**

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation **BRICK**
roof **WOOD: Shake**
walls **BRICK**
GLASS
other **Walls: CONCRETE, Roof: STONE**
Stairs: STONE, GRANITE

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

___ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_X_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a grave.

___ D a cemetery.

___ E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.

___ F a commemorative property.

_X_ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance **1961**

Significant Dates **1961**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder **Currie, Leonard, architect**
Pascoe, Charles, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Currie House, a carefully crafted residence of wood, glass, and brick, rests on a steeply sloping, sparsely wooded site in the mid-twentieth century Highland subdivision of Blacksburg, Virginia. Set among standard brick split-level and ranch houses of the era, the Currie House has become a landmark since its construction in 1961. It is known locally as the "Pagoda House" for the prominent, sweeping hipped roof that shelters the one-and-a-half story square house. The roof's extensive overhang is underscored by a deck that encircles the building, so that the two embrace the glass and wood walls of the house. The overhang, circulation within the house, and sensitive landscaping take advantage of the principles of passive solar heating. The interior detailing and the furnishings are consistent with the design of the exterior. Even the radiant heating system contributes to the openness of the interior by eliminating radiators and unnecessary vents. Leonard Currie, the architect, enriched the clean lines of the Modern Movement with the sensitive siting and warm materials of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs. The house is a clear, formal statement of contemporary design, an outstanding example in a state often praised for its historic styles. A contributing carport, built at the same time, stands just northeast of the house.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The Currie House in Blacksburg, Virginia is set within a mid-twentieth-century subdivision of typical suburban dwellings on hilly, winding streets. From the street a series of poured concrete slabs steps down an incline to the main living floor of the house, and a T-shaped driveway leads to a carport sited northeast of the house. The deck offers a spectacular view from the Allegheny ridge above Blacksburg looking northeast to the Roanoke Valley and south to Christiansburg. The main floor of the house sits above a full, bank-sited lower level, visible from the south, east, and west.

The house is principally of frame construction, with custom-designed cantilevered roof trusses, poured concrete and brick masonry infill walls on the lower level, and glass and board-and-batten walls on the main floor. Wood shakes cover the pyramidal roof. The house is square in plan, with an open-plan room arrangement surrounding a central brick chimney and service core. A wood-framed deck surrounds the house on all sides. It is covered by an eight-foot cantilevered roof extension, shading the interior from the high summer sun, but inviting the low-angle winter sun to flood the interior. The simple, compact volume minimizes heat loss and gain. The architect aimed to create a sequence of spaces--from the contained interior space to the controlled exterior space over the deck and under the roof, and on to the unlimited space beyond.

Because the house is approached from slightly uphill, the immediate visual impression is of a dramatic expanse of roof. The roof is covered by cedar shakes over the house and gravel ballast over the deck, and is anchored by the large, square, central masonry mass containing the flue and all of the plumbing and ventilating exhausts and vents. The rain water accumulates on the roof, then collects in concealed gutters and falls from copper-lined scuppers placed midway on each side of the roof. The water splashes and collects into four large, square, ornamental poured concrete basins below. The overflow from the basins falls over a lip to a gravel square set in the ground. The basins provide water for birds and other wildlife.

The deck was originally designed without any railing on the main level, but with large redwood planter boxes opposite each egress. Subsequently, a simple low wood railing was added on the south, east, and west sides. The deck is supported by paired two-by-four posts and by Flitch beams, which are wood beams with a steel core. The diagonal corner joists are exposed by a square notch cut in the deck flooring at the corners. The principal entrance is on the west side near the northwest corner, deliberately avoiding an obvious, traditional entrance on the front facade. The service entry is in the center of the east wall. The main entry is reached by a series of gravel-surfaced concrete stepping stones and unusual steps made of four-by-four wood members laid in Lincoln-log fashion and then bolted together. The entry section of the deck is visually separated by a vertical-member lattice trellis which extends thirty feet west of the house on top of the west concrete retaining wall.

Three-quarters of the top floor is dedicated to the main living space, including a reception area, a living and dining room, and a kitchen. These areas are open to one another, wrapping around the service core and focusing on the views outside. A gently sloping ceiling of rough plaster and the brick walls of the service core define the space. The main entrance leads into the reception area in the northwest corner. This area is separated from the living/dining space across the south front by an open stair to the lower level. The living/dining area takes advantage of the south and east views, of natural cross-ventilation, and of passive solar energy by use of walls of fixed and sliding glass panels on the south, west, and east. A central fireplace facing south in the exposed brick service core is flanked by solid and perforated brick wing walls. All the brick used in the house is warm-colored, locally made, and recycled. The fireplace is surmounted by a stone-faced granite slab mantel.

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The small kitchen is placed between the service core and the east wall, with the oven efficiently tucked into the back of the wing wall east of the fireplace. All mechanical services to the kitchen come up through the service core, as do the waste and ventilation plumbing. The kitchen is screened from the living/dining area by a counter with hanging cabinets and a pass-through. A deep storage wall faced with flush-mounted walnut plywood cabinet doors wraps around the north and west sides of the kitchen, leaving the east wall open for the service entrance.

The entire room, from the reception/family area to the kitchen, wraps around the service core, divided only by a free-standing coat closet at the top of the stairs and kitchen cabinets, both only seven feet tall. The dramatic sloping rough plaster ceiling is visible extending above the space, apparently floating above the delicate wood members of the plastered exterior walls and glass panels and separated from them by a nearly continuous strip of glass just below the eaves. The flooring throughout is oak parquet, and all the doors are Philippine mahogany. A wood-concealed lighting strip encircles the service core.

The northeast corner of the main floor contains the master bedroom. It is completely separated from the reception and kitchen areas by seven-foot storage and closet walls topped by glass panels which rise to the ceiling. Visually, the space is an integral part of the single unit surrounding the service core. It can be entered through a door in the kitchen or from a small hall facing the reception area. The bedroom and the reception area both have frosted glass panels on the street, or north, elevation for privacy, and clear glass windows on the side walls.

The staircase is one of the house's principal decorative features. It is imaginatively constructed of narrow vertical wood members of local cherry with open risers and a landing with concealed fastenings. It is a remarkably crisp and sculptural stair, in which the vertical members combine the function of a stringer, railing, and screen to the recreation room below. The architect states that he was searching for "an economy of means," and wished the design to accomplish its purpose with "no redundancy."

The lower floor was planned for the residents' teenage children. The stair descends into a recreation room on the south side, which originally had a view across the valley. Two small bedrooms open off this room at the southeast corner of the house. A study or extra bedroom, a laundry, and workshop/study area rest within the bank on the north side of the lower level. Again, a bathroom is placed within the service core, accessible near the bedrooms in the recreation room, and a wet bar backs up to the service core. Sliding glass doors and large windows provide light in the recreation room, the bedrooms, and the study. As on the main

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level, light in the lower level is increased by a continuous horizontal band of glass where the exterior walls meet the ceiling. The lower level, originally the domain of the architect's teenaged children, is mainly enclosed, evoking a generally darker, protected environment. Throughout the lower level several narrow vertical windows are placed directly below the slender wood columns that divide the windows on the upper floor. They are set in board-formed concrete frames which break the masonry walls, reinforcing the fortress-like quality of the space.

The house is heated with a radiant heating system with no visible elements--no radiators, convectors, registers, grilles, or ducts. The system, based on a series of previous experiments by the architect, is made up of copper pipes embedded in the concrete ground floor and copper tubing in the plaster ceiling of the upper level, through which hot water circulates. This economical system maintains comfort at a lower air temperature than conventional heat sources while humidity levels are higher and more constant. The sloping ceiling and the shape of the space improve the acoustical qualities of the house.

A brick-floored terrace wraps around the lower floor, below the main floor deck. Dramatic cantilevered granite slab steps lead from the terrace to the deck along a poured concrete retaining wall east of the house. The steps end in a small concrete landing projecting from the wall. At the end of the wall thirty feet to the east there are semi-circular indentations to neatly house two trash cans. A contributing carport contemporary with the house is located to the northeast on the upper level. The 20' by 20' metal post-and-lintel structure, spanned by Flitch beams to avoid center posts, is screened by a vertical-member frame lattice covered with wisteria on the north and south and by a storage cabinet wall on the east which stabilizes the structure.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Currie House, a square modern house with a prominent, pagoda-like roof, rests on the side of a hill in the Highland Park subdivision in Blacksburg, Virginia. Built of wood, concrete, and brick, its open, square plan and expansive windows clearly relate its layout to the visitor. It stands as a testament to the beauties of contemporary architecture in a state where historical styles have long dominated. A straightforward house, built on a modest budget, its attributes are its beauty and its appealing simplicity. The architect, a student and colleague of Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, eliminated unneeded decoration and stripped the functions down to the essentials. In 1962 the house won the First Honor Award for Homes in the American Institute of Architects Homes for Better Living Awards, in cooperation with House and Homes Magazine and Life Magazine. The warmth of the simple materials and the logic of its layout have endeared it to a generation of admirers, including the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, which awarded the Currie House its "Test of Time" Award in 1982. Designed in 1960 and built for the architect's family in 1961, the house retains its integrity today. There are few award-winning, high-style modern houses of the Currie House's era in the state, and in the southwest region it is recognized as the finest. This clear, formal statement of contemporary design is recommended as an exception to the fifty-year rule because of the rarity of similar resources in the region.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Currie House, a spectacular example of modern residential architecture in southwest Virginia, has become a landmark of sorts in Blacksburg, where it is known as the "Pagoda House." Its expansive roofline, from which its nickname derives, provides the symbol of shelter for a house that is really open to the valley around it. Designed by a protégé of the founders of the Bauhaus with an open plan and clear structure, elegantly subtle ornament, and simple but lasting materials, the house embodies many of the tenets of the Modern Movement. The Currie House expresses these ideals in a space that also conveys the warmth of a family home.

The Currie House was designed by the architect for his own family, and built under his close supervision. Leonard Currie was head of the Architecture School at Virginia Tech at the time, but he and his family had travelled all over the world before settling in Blacksburg. Born in Canada in 1913, Currie had studied under Walter Gropius at Harvard, and then apprenticed with Gropius and Marcel Breuer in Cambridge. Currie worked with them for nearly three years, until he received Harvard's Wheelwright Traveling Fellowship, with which he worked on the reconstruction of the Mayan Ruinas de Copan as assistant to the archaeologist in charge.

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Subsequently, he supervised the construction of two national airports in Central America, before joining the Allied forces in Europe during World War II.

After the war, in response to an invitation from Gropius, Currie joined the faculty of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and concurrently practiced as an affiliate of the newly formed firm, The Architects Collaborative (TAC). In 1951 he accepted the challenge of organizing and becoming the first director of the Interamerican Housing and Planning Center (CINVA) of the Organization of American States in Bogota, Colombia, where he directed studies of the severe urban problems existing in South and Central American cities.

By 1956 the Curries had returned to the United States, and Currie became professor and head of the Department of Architecture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg. While there, he steered the architecture department into elevated status as an independent school within the university. As the head of one of the state's prominent architecture schools, Currie was familiar with the historical styles that dominated Virginia's domestic architecture. But his position, training, and experience challenged him to design a house that was both innovative and appealing.

Virginia's mid-century residential architecture was highly influenced by the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. At the beginning of the century, several revival styles and Arts and Crafts bungalows had been popular choices for homes, but once Colonial Williamsburg opened to the public, Georgian derivatives dominated. After World War II, the housing shortage inspired many housing developments across the state with a more modern aesthetic, but the houses, often designed by builders, were seldom planned with any architectural aspirations. Those designed by architects, like Hollin Hills in Arlington by Charles M. Goodman, often addressed questions of modern housing in bulk, rarely providing the opportunity to create a single family's solution as did the Currie House. Hollin Hills won the first "Test of Time" Award from the Virginia Society of the AIA in 1981, though Goodman's excellent example apparently had little impact on suburban housing developments across the state. At the same time that Goodman was designing Hollin Hills, Currie was working with TAC on a similar post-World War II utopian community called Six Moon Hill, in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Another Virginia example of forward-thinking architecture, Dulles International Airport was designed and built concurrently with the Currie House, although its location in the remote countryside outside of Washington, D.C., isolated it from the rest of Virginia. It received favorable press statewide as well as nationally, but its function as an international airport was seen as justification for its modernistic appearance.

A two-part series in The Commonwealth: The Magazine of Virginia in 1962-1963 on the state of architecture in Virginia bemoaned the lack of quality modern housing.[1] Blamed on builders' fear of risking anything new and the public's preference for Williamsburg style, the dearth of contemporary residences was forecast as a long-term situation. "Modern architecture in Virginia of significant importance is almost non-existent," was the gripe of Thomas K. FitzPatrick, Dean of the Architecture program at the University of Virginia. The point was made that many modern offices, commercial structures, schools, and apartment complexes were being built, and that perhaps these would influence the next generation.

The second half of the article was subtitled, "The Home: In a state prone to traditionalism architects work to establish a contemporary residential beachhead." The architects consulted for the article repeated that the only hope for modernism in Virginia was that the appeal of carefully handled and technologically advanced materials and plans in public buildings would gradually sink in the minds and hearts of Virginians as they attended classes, visited the post office, and went to work.

Currie designed the house in 1960, and in 1961 contracted with Charles Pascoe, a builder with whom he had developed a good relationship, to construct it for him. The house tested Pascoe's ability, since many of its features were new to his practice, but his skill is apparent in the final product. The simplicity of the house's appearance belies the careful planning that led to its completion.

Currie's training in the Modern Movement, frequently called the International Style, as practiced by two of its leading advocates--Gropius and Breuer--is apparent in every part of the house. A short description of the style can be found in The International Style: Architecture Since 1922, a book by Henry Russell-Hitchcock and Philip Johnson, originally published in 1932.[2]

> The distinguishing aesthetic principles of the International Style as laid down by the authors are three: emphasis upon volume; space enclosed by thin planes or surfaces as opposed to the suggestion of mass and solidity; regularity as opposed to symmetry or other kinds of obvious balance; and, lastly, dependence upon the intrinsic elegance of materials, technical perfection, and fine proportions, as opposed to applied ornament.[3]

Although the roof of the Currie House implies significant weight, volume is the predominant impression. The use of floor-to-ceiling glass, particularly at the corners of the

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house, and the clerestory that encircles the house, both reveal that it is the skeletal wood frame, not the walls, bearing the weight of the roof, so any impression of massiveness is gently contradicted. This increases the impression of a volume of space perched at the edge of a hill, merely wrapped in an enclosure of glass and wood with a large roof hovering over it.

As for regularity, no two elevations are identical. Although two are symmetrical, they are because of the simplicity of the structure. The roof, the deck, and the scuppers that release the rainwater into blocky reservoirs provide a continuity from elevation to elevation. The designer's willingness to place the kitchen door off-center to keep from disrupting the structural member that rises through the center of the east elevation proves his interest in producing a building that works rather than one that balances. Less literal examples of the designer's deliberate lack of imposed formality are especially apparent in the interior elevations. For instance, the fireplace is flanked by the void of the staircase and the solidity of the kitchen cabinets. And the staircase is partially screened by a vertical lattice, which both supports the treads and imposes a frame for the stair.

It is simple to see that the Currie House does not rely on applied ornament. The scuppers, decks, and poured concrete exterior stairs are indications that the architect had the confidence to trust elemental materials to convey the dignity of their purpose with any need to disguise or elaborate on them. The thirty-year success of the radiant heating system and the drainage system both attest to Currie's technical design skills. And the simple profile of the house, which has inspired its nickname as well as its reputation, speaks for its fine proportions.

While discussing the evidence of his influences at the Currie House, the architect has mentioned the service core, and his debt to Louis Kahn for it. Although Currie indicates Kahn is the source of his interpretation of the service core, the most famous service core is probably that of the Glass House in New Canaan, Connecticut, designed by Philip Johnson.

The expansive, sheltering roof--the only feature of the house that seems counter to the ideas of the International Style--may actually go back earlier in Currie's ideas. The architect remembers that one of his first architectural influences was Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright, who disliked the machine-like buildings of many International Style architects, thought a house should communicate clearly its function as a haven and refuge away from the world for a family. He often tucked doorways into darkened, secluded passages, difficult for newcomers to find. Though the entrance to the Currie House is not obscure, it is indirect. Many of Wright's residential interiors were compared to caves--basic, encompassing shelter from the world for a family unit. Although the main level of the Currie House is anything but cave-like, perhaps the

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image of the enormous, protective roof appealed to Currie because of its subtle ties to Wright's designs. At the lower level, the area set aside for the children, a deliberate attempt was made to invoke a protective, almost cave-like ambience. Currie has remarked that the nickname of the house and the subsequent implication that the design is based on Asian structures, while understandable, are misleading. Though Wright was influenced by Asian architecture, and Currie was fascinated by Wright, Currie did not deliberately set out to design a "pagoda". In fact, the architect has noted that he thinks the service core's protruding block evokes the medieval towers of San Gimignano.

When the Curries moved to Chicago just a few years later, they rented the house in hopes of returning. They eventually chose to sell the house to Peter Trower, a professor at Virginia Tech, in 1966. Trower has owned and protected the house ever since.

The Currie House exemplifies a movement that was rarely addressed in residential architecture in the southwestern part of Virginia. Its successful integration into its neighborhood, its fame as a local landmark, and its graceful aging all reiterate its importance to the architecture of the area.

ENDNOTES

1. "Architecture in Virginia Today," by George W. Wilbur appeared in the December 1962 and January 1963 issues of The Commonwealth: The Magazine of Virginia, a publication of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, Vol. 29, no. 12, and Vol. 30, no. 1.

2. The quote is from a 1966 edition of the book, entitled simply The International Style, published by W. W. Norton and Company. The original was published concurrently with the first architectural exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

3. The International Style, by Henry Russell-Hitchcock and Philip Johnson, W. W. Norton & Co., 1966, p. 13.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ________
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _______

Primary Location of Additional Data
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: ______________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _**less than one acre**______

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing
1	**17/553750/4119660**	2	
3		4	

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title____**Sarah Shields Driggs**______________________________

organization____date _**August 12, 1993**_

street & number_**1501 Palmyra Avenue**________________telephone___**804-359-1510**__

city or town______**Richmond**____________________state_**VA**_ zip code ____**23227**____

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Currie, Leonard. Interviews and letters between Currie and the author, 1992-1994.

Russell-Hitchcock, Henry and Philip Johnson, The International Style. W. W. Norton & Co., 1966, reprinted from 1932.

Wilbur, George W., "Architecture in Virginia Today," The Commonwealth: The Magazine of Virginia. Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, December 1962 and January 1963, Vol. 29, no. 12 and Vol. 30, no. 1.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Currie House are shown on the accompanying plat of the property dated 7 August 1974, and are marked as the western half of lot 99 and the whole of lot 98 in the Highland Park subdivision of the town of Blacksburg.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries indicated for the Currie House include all the property historically associated with the house, purchased by Leonard and Virginia Currie in 1960.

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
  Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **W. Peter Trower**

street & number **1105 Highland Circle** telephone **703-231-6230**

city or town **Blacksburg** state **VA** zip code **24060**

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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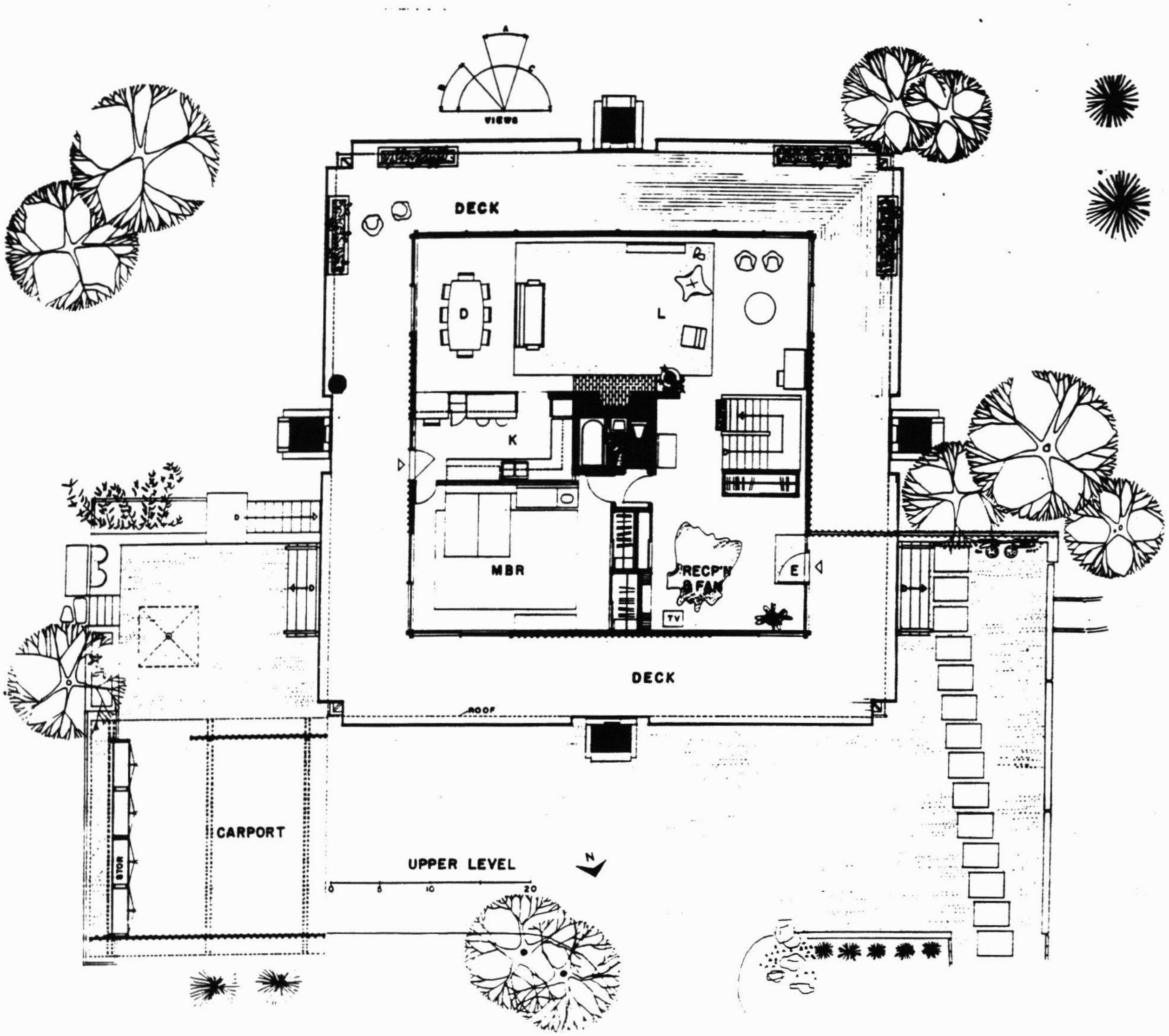
VIEWS
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ROOF
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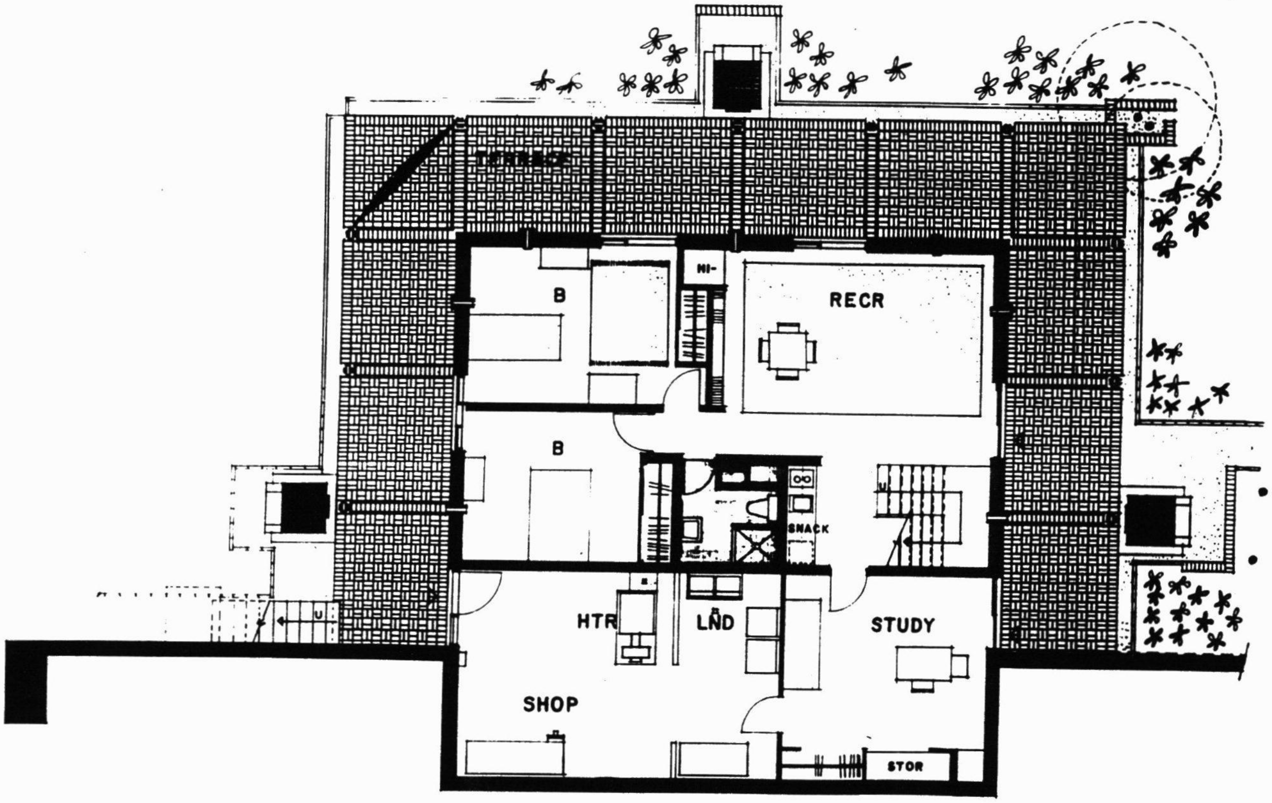
JUN 16 1994


TERRACE
B
HI-
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LOWER LEVEL

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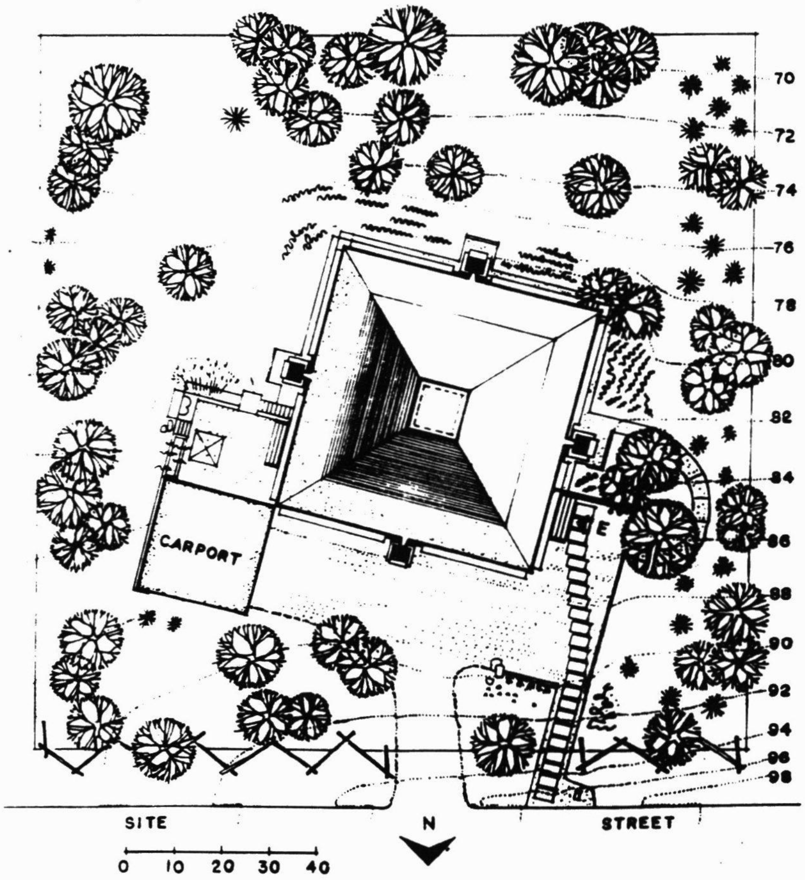
JUN 16 1994


70
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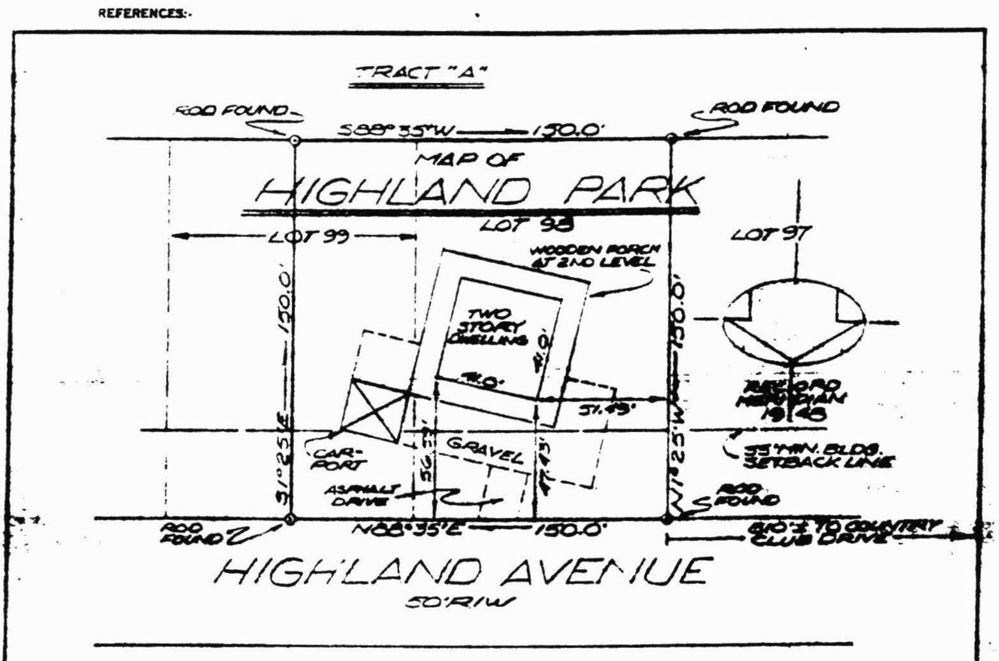
JUN 16 1994


REFERENCES:-
TRACT "A"
ROD FOUND
ROD FOUND
S88°35'W——150.0'
MAP OF
HIGHLAND PARK
LOT 98
LOT 99
LOT 97
WOODEN PORCH AT 2ND LEVEL
TWO STORY DWELLING
150.0'
150.0'
41.0'
44.0'
51.45'
RECORD MERIDIAN 1946
35' MIN. BLDG. SETBACK LINE
CAR-PORT
GRAVEL
56.3'
47.45'
ASPHALT DRIVE
S1°25'E
N1°25'W
ROD FOUND
ROD FOUND
N88°35'E——150.0'
610'± TO COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE
HIGHLAND AVENUE
50' R/W

This is to certify that on 7 August, 1974, I made an accurate survey of the premises shown hereon and that there are no easements and encroachments visible on the ground other than those shown hereon.

D. P. Marks

D. P. Marks, C. L. S. 949

For

DRAPER. MARKS. ADEN
AND ASSOCIATES. INC.
ENGINEERS—SURVEYORS—PLANNERS
BLACKSBURG. VIRGINIA

Plat of Property
To be Acquired by
THOMAS M. & ANN D. WATTS

Located in
Town of Blacksburg
Mt. Tabor Magisterial District
Montgomery County, Virginia
1"=50': Scale

7 August, 1974

DRAWN BY:-

CHECKED BY:-

PLAN NO. L-74-248

JUN 16 1994

CURRIE HOUSE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA
DHR FILE NO.: 150-19
PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVID A. EDWARDS
NEG. NO. 13624
FILED AT VA STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, RICHMOND, VA
DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 1994

1. VIEW OF: Front and west side elevations, main entrance, facing southeast
   NEG. NO.: 13624-35
   PHOTO 1 of 13

2. VIEW OF: Front and east side elevations, carport, facing south
   NEG. NO.: 13624-36A
   PHOTO 2 of 13

3. VIEW OF: Exterior stair to lower level, east side elevation, facing northwest
   NEG. NO.: 13624-33
   PHOTO 3 of 13

4. VIEW OF: Rear elevation showing basin for rainwater, facing northeast
   NEG. NO.: 13624-32
   PHOTO 4 of 13

5. VIEW OF: Rear and east elevations, facing northwest
   NEG. NO.: 13624-31
   PHOTO 5 of 13

6. VIEW OF: Living room and stair looking toward entry, facing north
   NEG. NO.: 13624-22
   PHOTO 6 of 13

7. VIEW OF: L to R: Entry, service core, living room/dining room, facing northeast
   NEG. NO.: 13624-13
   PHOTO 7 of 13

JUN 16 1994

8. VIEW OF: Dining room area in foreground, living room behind, facing west
NEG. NO.: 13624-9
PHOTO 8 of 13

9. VIEW OF: Kitchen, facing east
NEG. NO.: 13624-20
PHOTO 9 of 13

10. VIEW OF: Main bedroom, facing northeast
NEG. NO.: 13624-18
PHOTO 10 of 13

11. VIEW OF: Lower level living area and stair, facing northwest
NEG. NO.: 13624-24
PHOTO 11 of 13

12. VIEW OF: Lower level living area, facing southwest
NEG. NO.: 13624-28
PHOTO 12 of 13

13. VIEW OF: Lower level southeast corner bedroom, facing southeast
NEG. NO.: 13624-29
PHOTO 13 of 13

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Currie House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Montgomery

DATE RECEIVED: 8/08/94
DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/22/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94000549

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

✓ ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 9/14/94 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comment

RECOM./CRITERIA accept C
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 9/13/94

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

________________________________ Phone ____________

Signed ______________________ Date __________

REQUEST FOR DECISION ON PROPERTIES ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE LAST 50 YEARS

Names of Nominated Properties:	Recommendation:
Currie House	Accept C

Others (see attached): yes ___ no ___

Explanation of recommendation:

_____ attached to this sheet

_____ attached to individual property evaluation/return sheet

_____ attached to MPS cover evaluation/return sheet

Additional Comments:

45 day review period ends 9/22/94

Reviewer:

Date:

REQUEST FOR DECISION ON PROPERTIES ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE LAST 50 YEARS

Names of Nominated Properties:	Recommendation:
Currie House	**Accept, C**

Others (see attached): yes ___ no _x_

Explanation of recommendation:

x_____ attached to this sheet

_____ attached to individual property evaluation/return sheet

_____ attached to MPS cover evaluation/return sheet

Additional Comments:

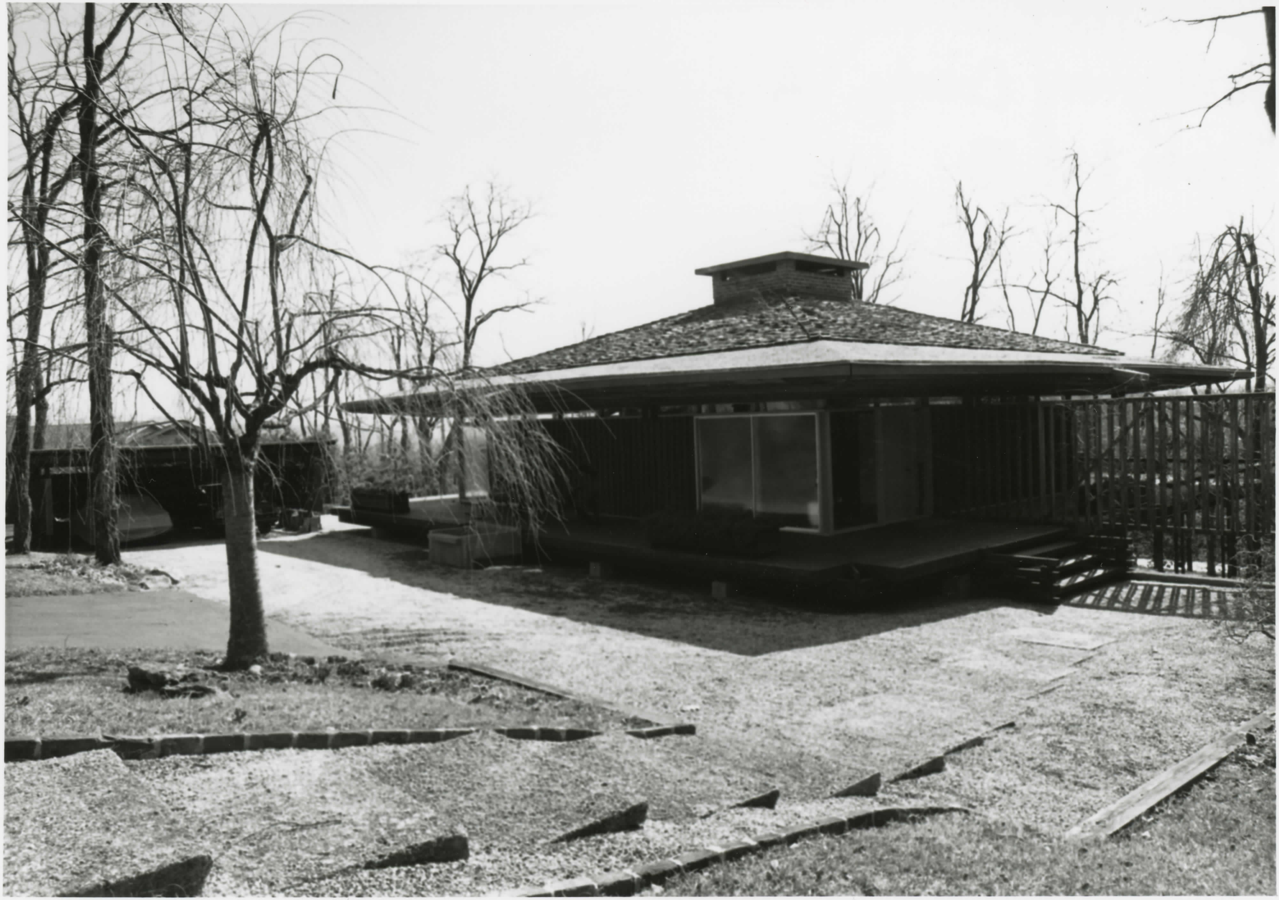
The Currie House, a small residence constructed in 1960, is exceptionally important for architectural significance as one of the few modern, high-style, architect designed houses in the State dating from the period. The architect, the Head of the Architecture School at Virginia Tech and a student and colleague of both Marcel Breuer and Walter Gropius, designed and built this modest contemporary residence to purposely counter the prevailing trend in Virginia which favored derivative colonial styles.

The Currie House, with its open plan, expansive use of glass, lack of applied ornamentation, and its sweeping hipped roof with an extensive overhang, is a clear, formal statement of contemporary design.

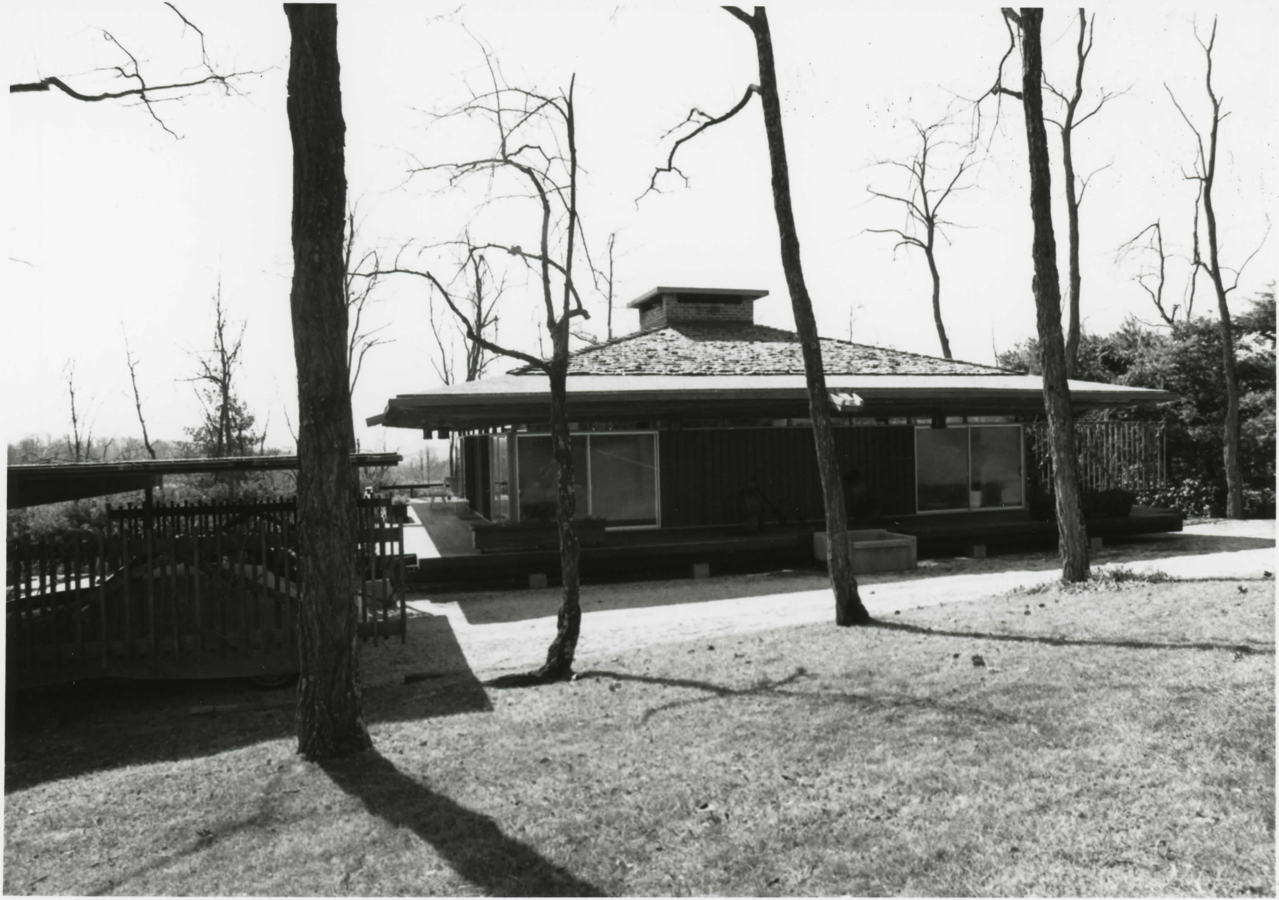
At a time when the State was noted for its scarcity of modern architecture, the Currie House was recognized immediately by the American Institute of Architects which awarded the building the First Honor Award for Homes in 1962. This judgement was validated by the Virginia Society of the AIA, which awarded the Currie House its "Test of Time Award" in 1982.

Reviewer: Patrick Andrus

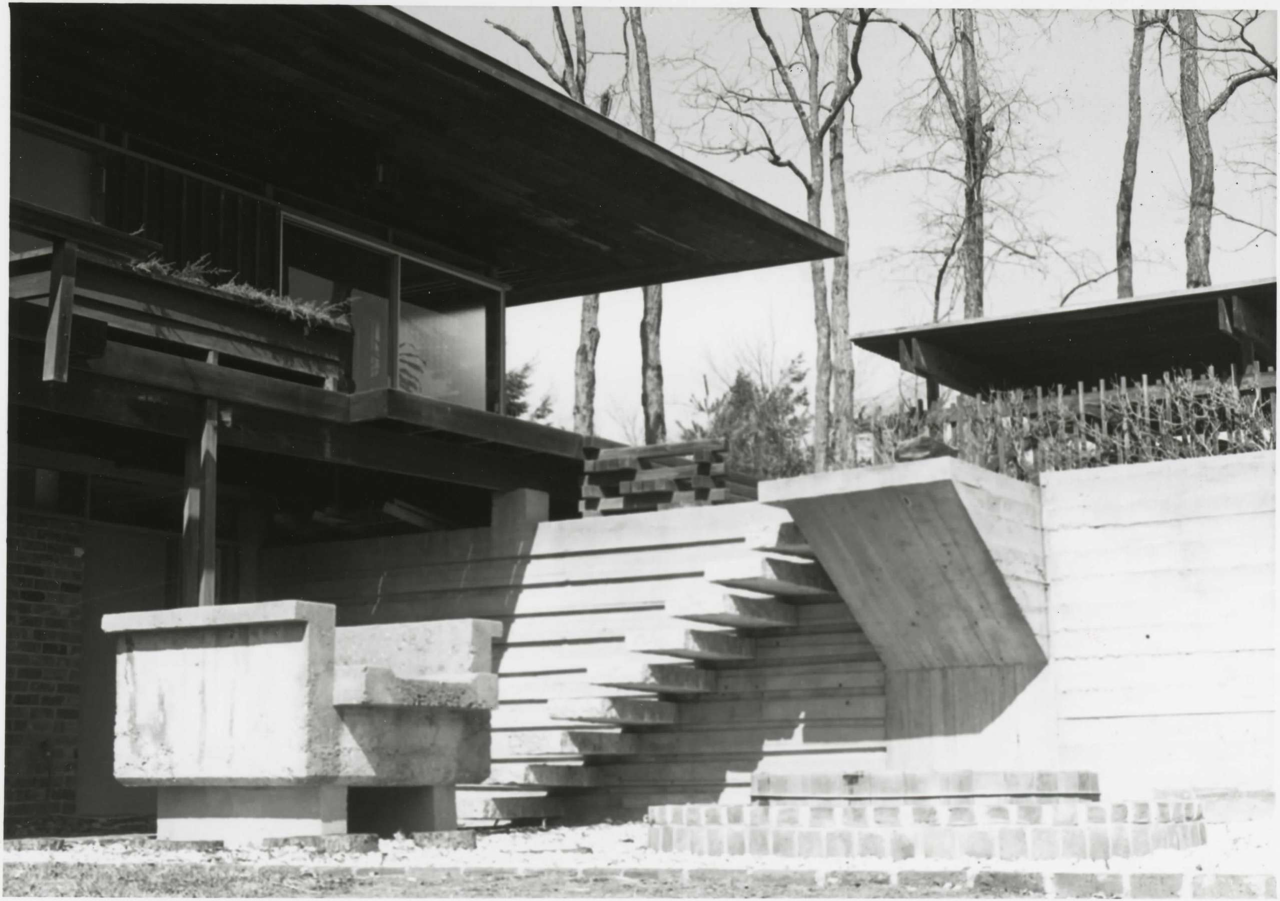
Date: 9/13/94



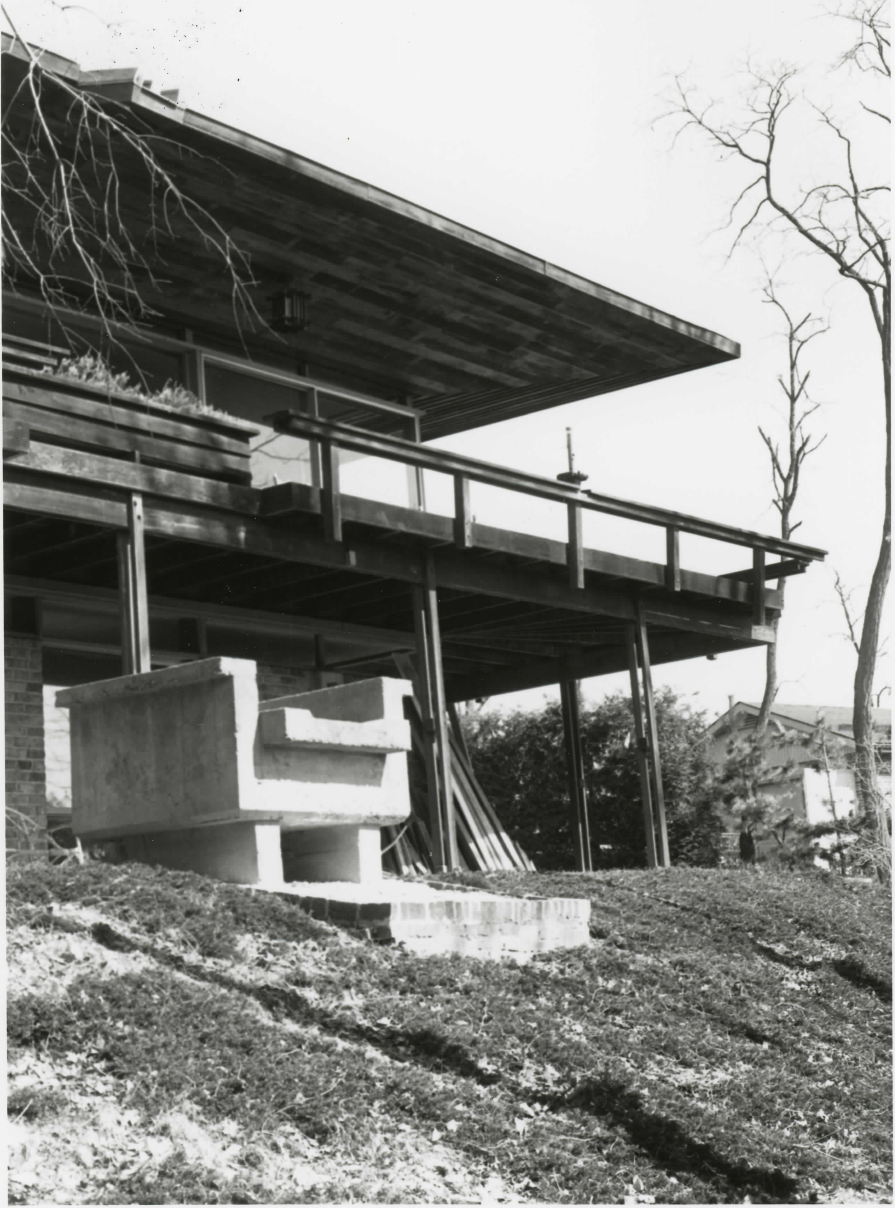
Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 1 of 13



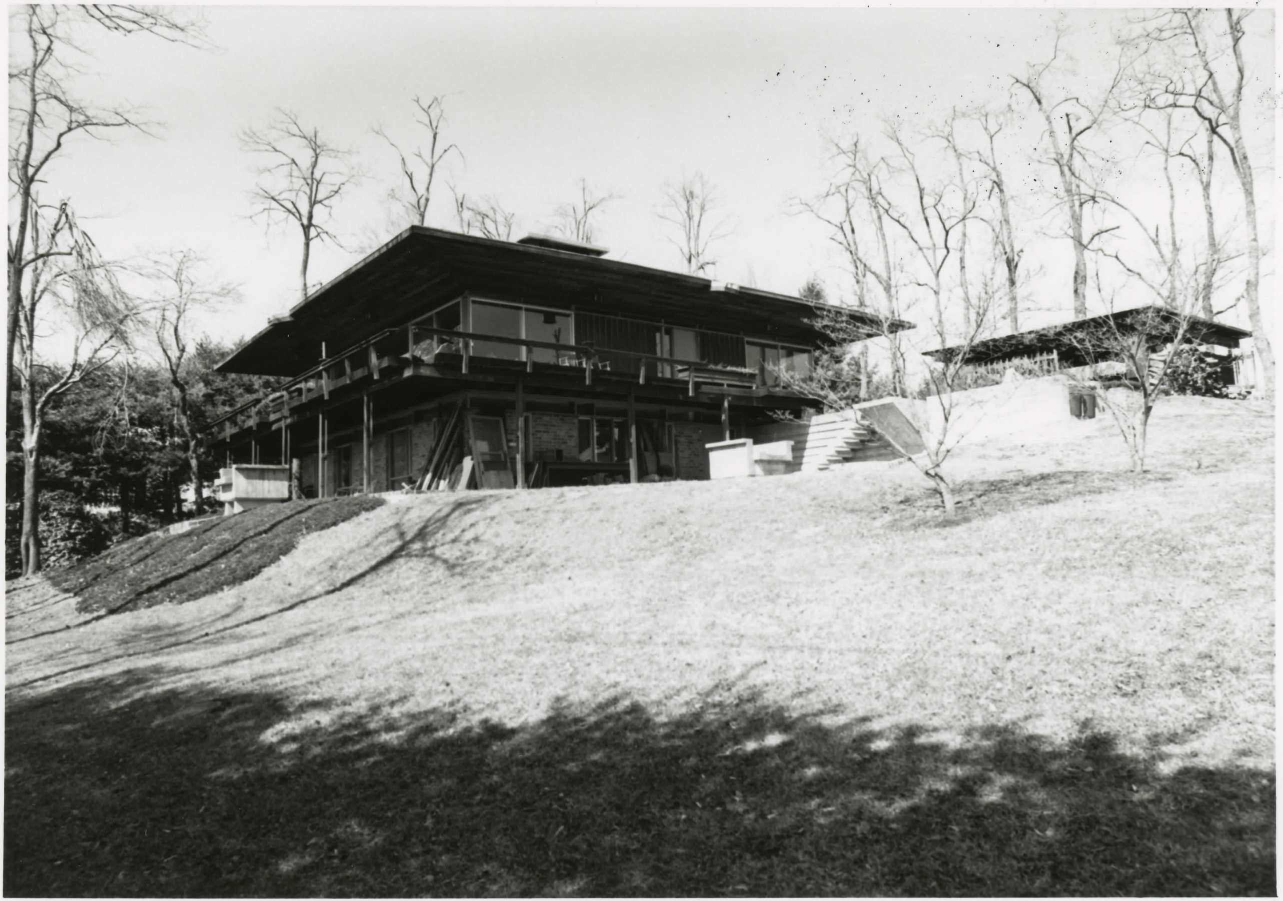
Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 2 of 13



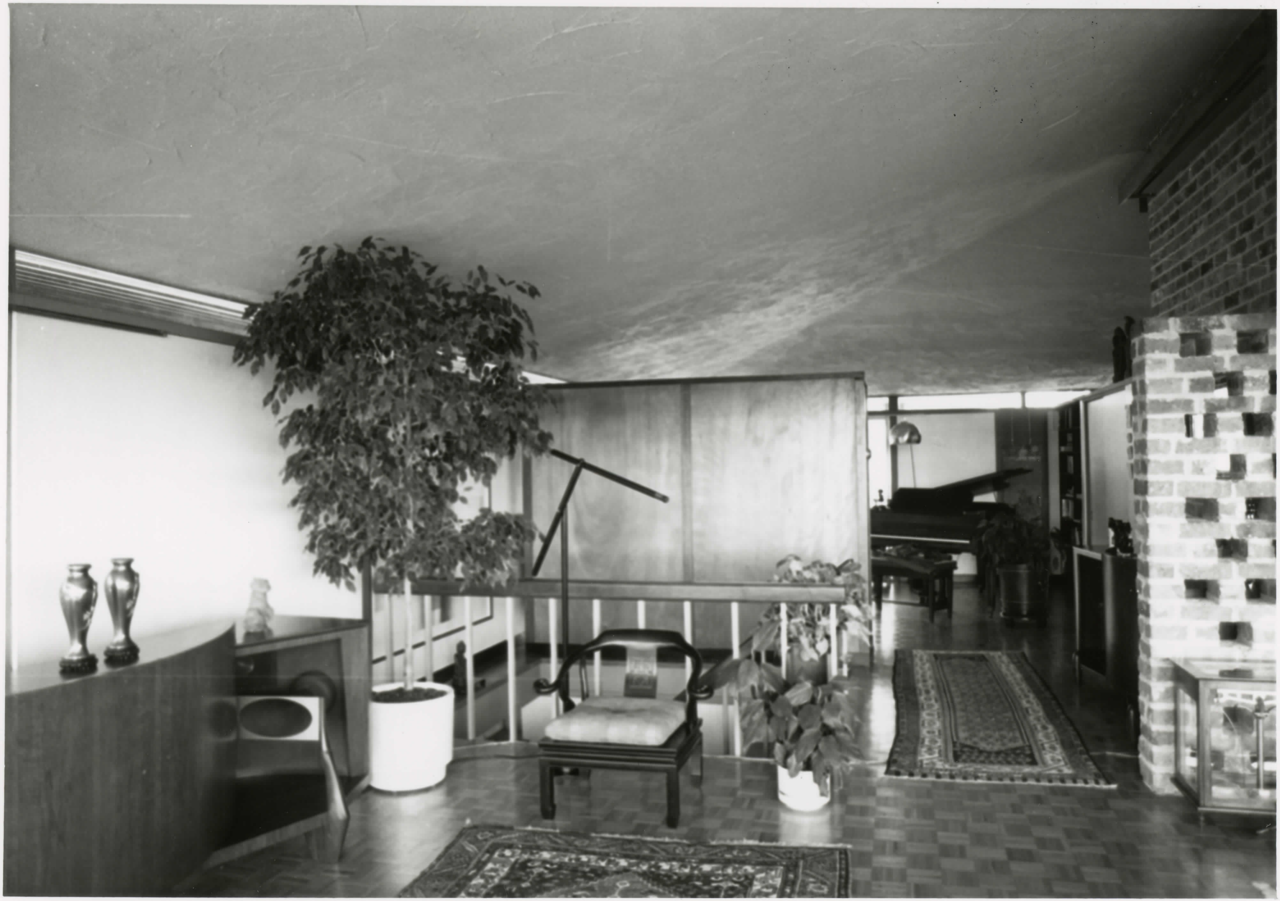
Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 3 of 13



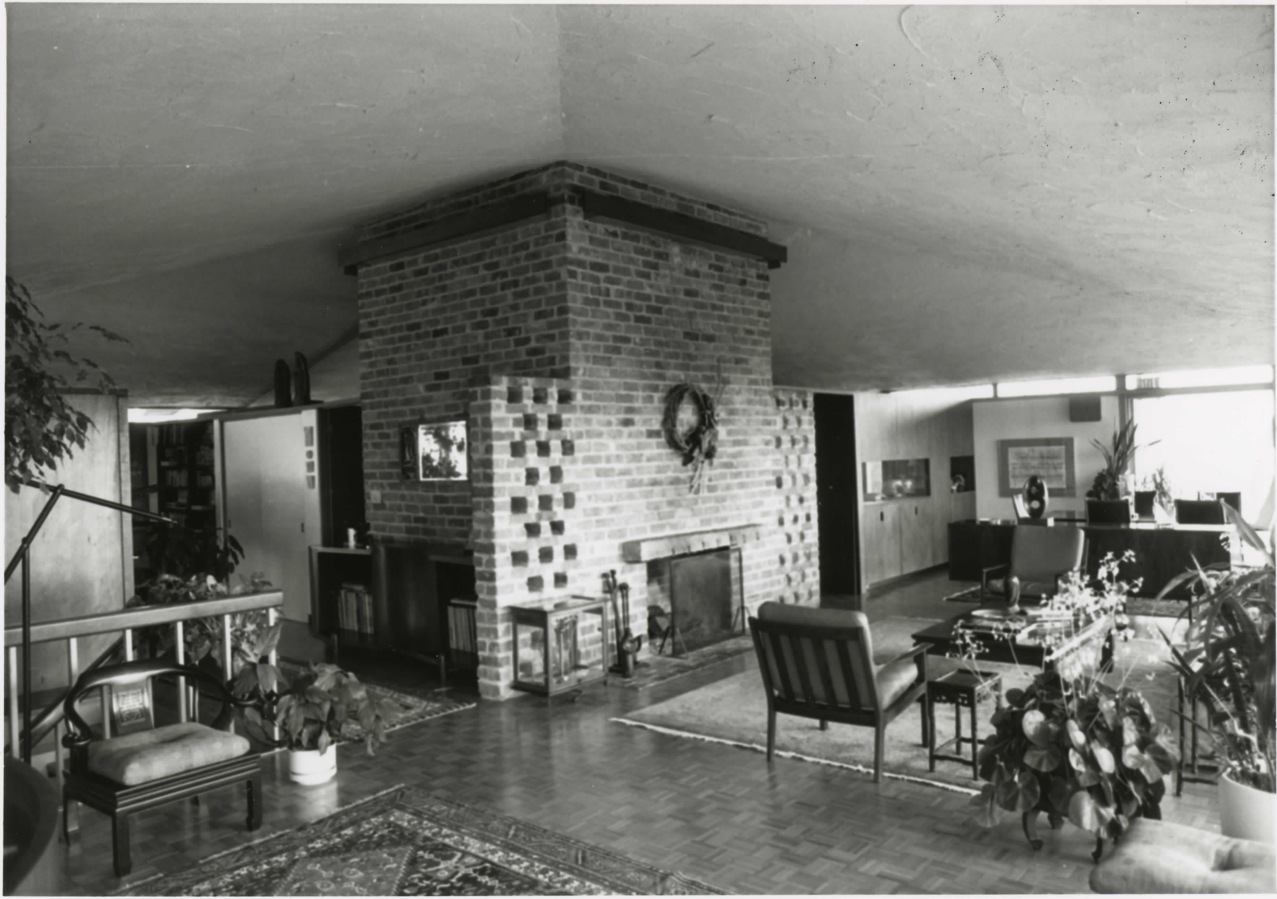
Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 4 of 13



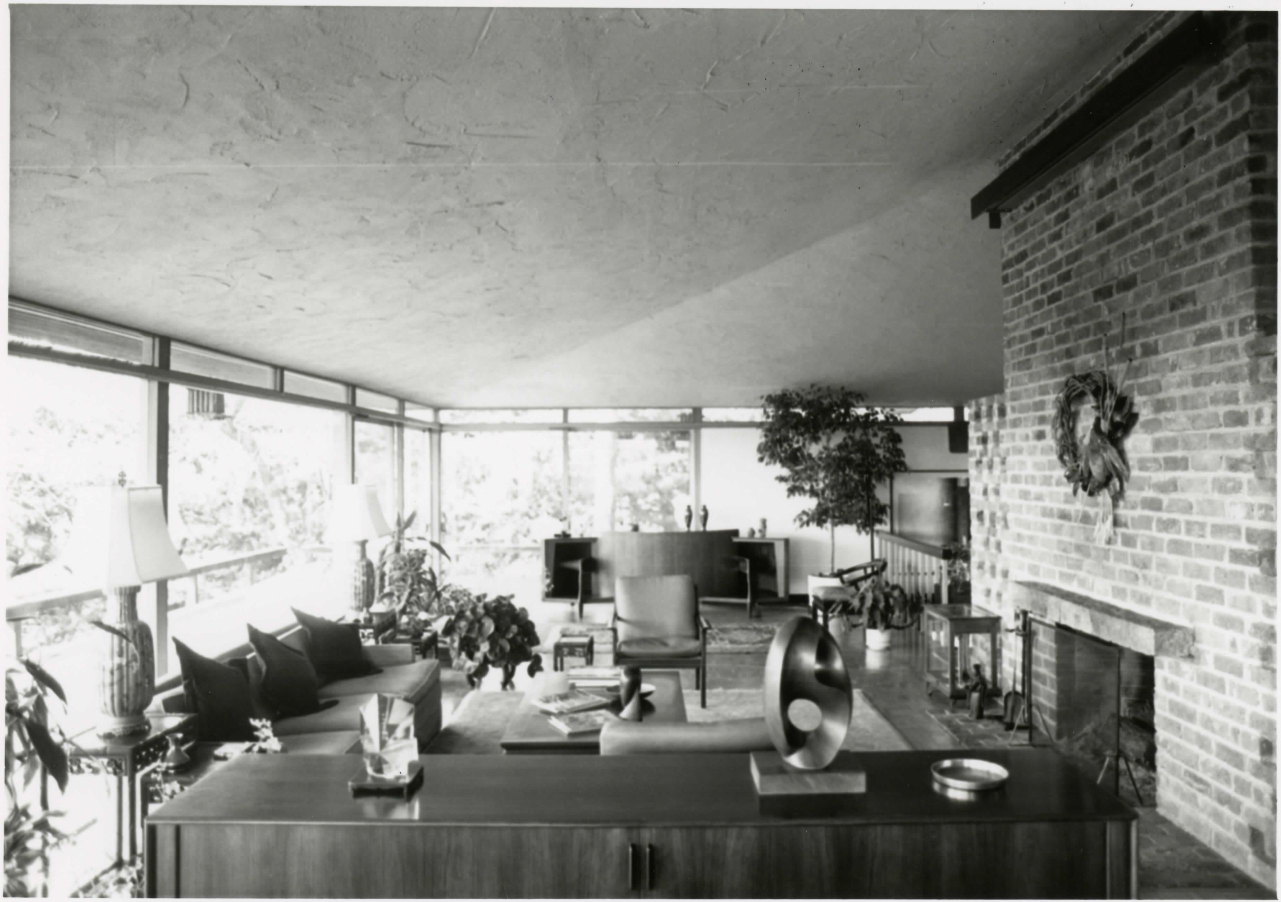
Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 5 of 13



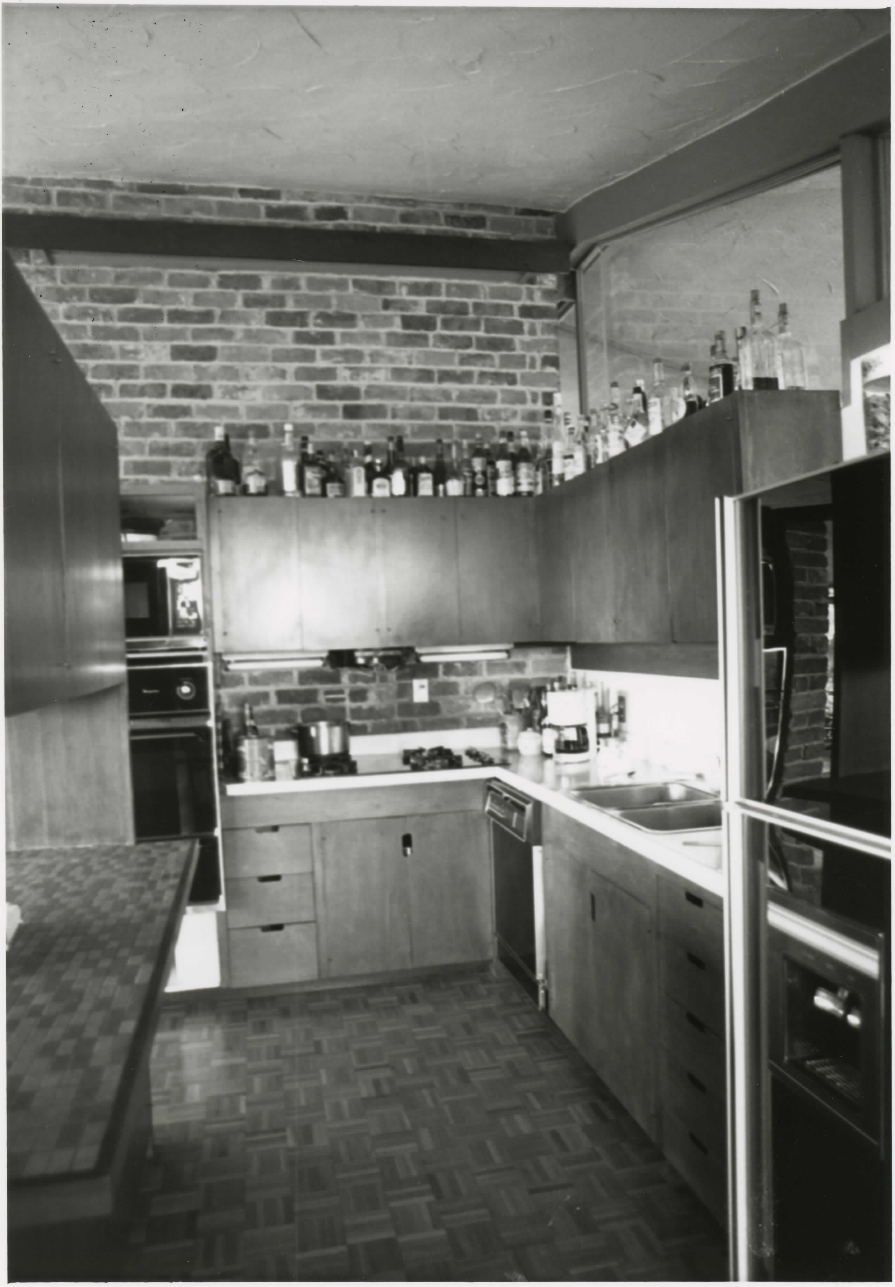
Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 6 of 13



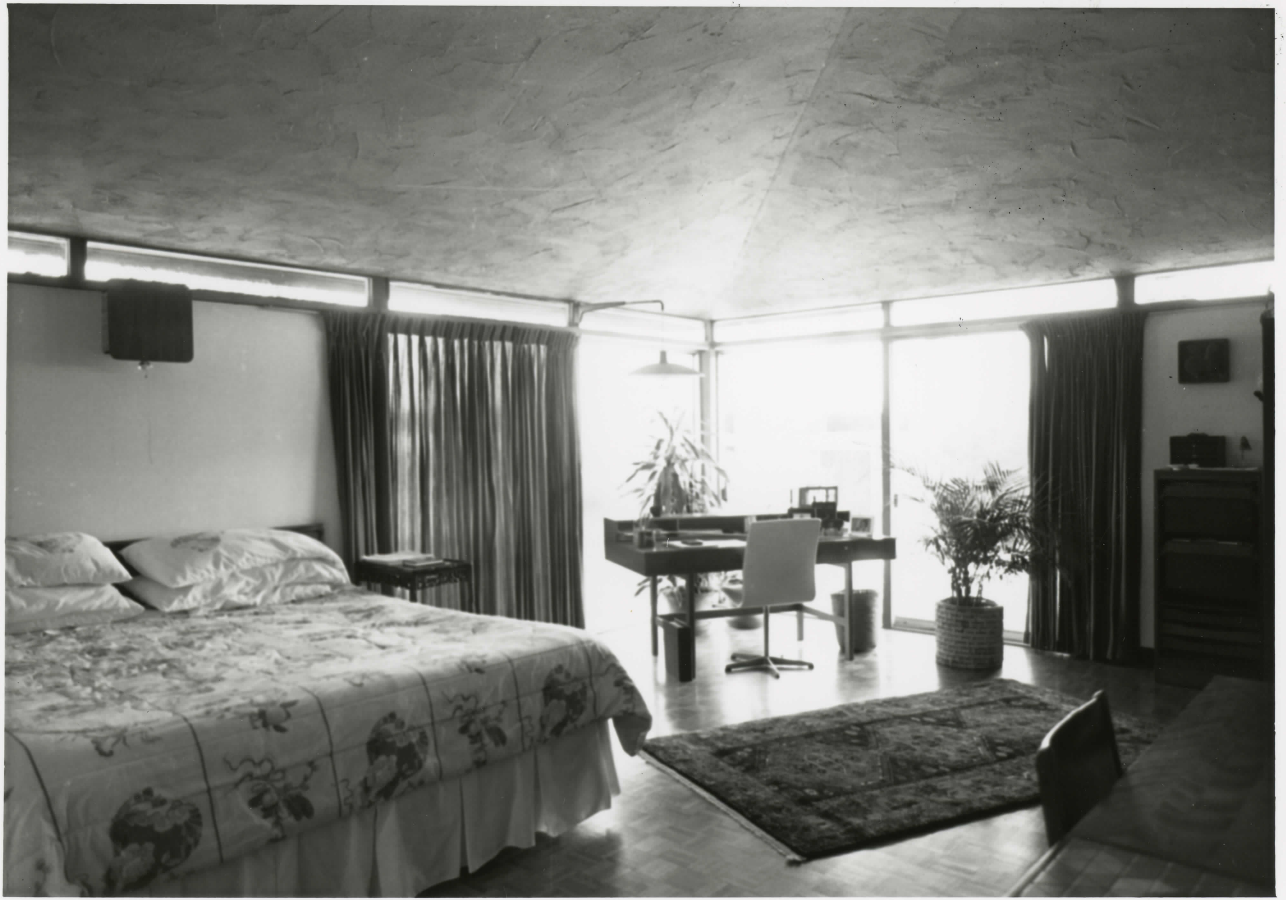
Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 7 of 13



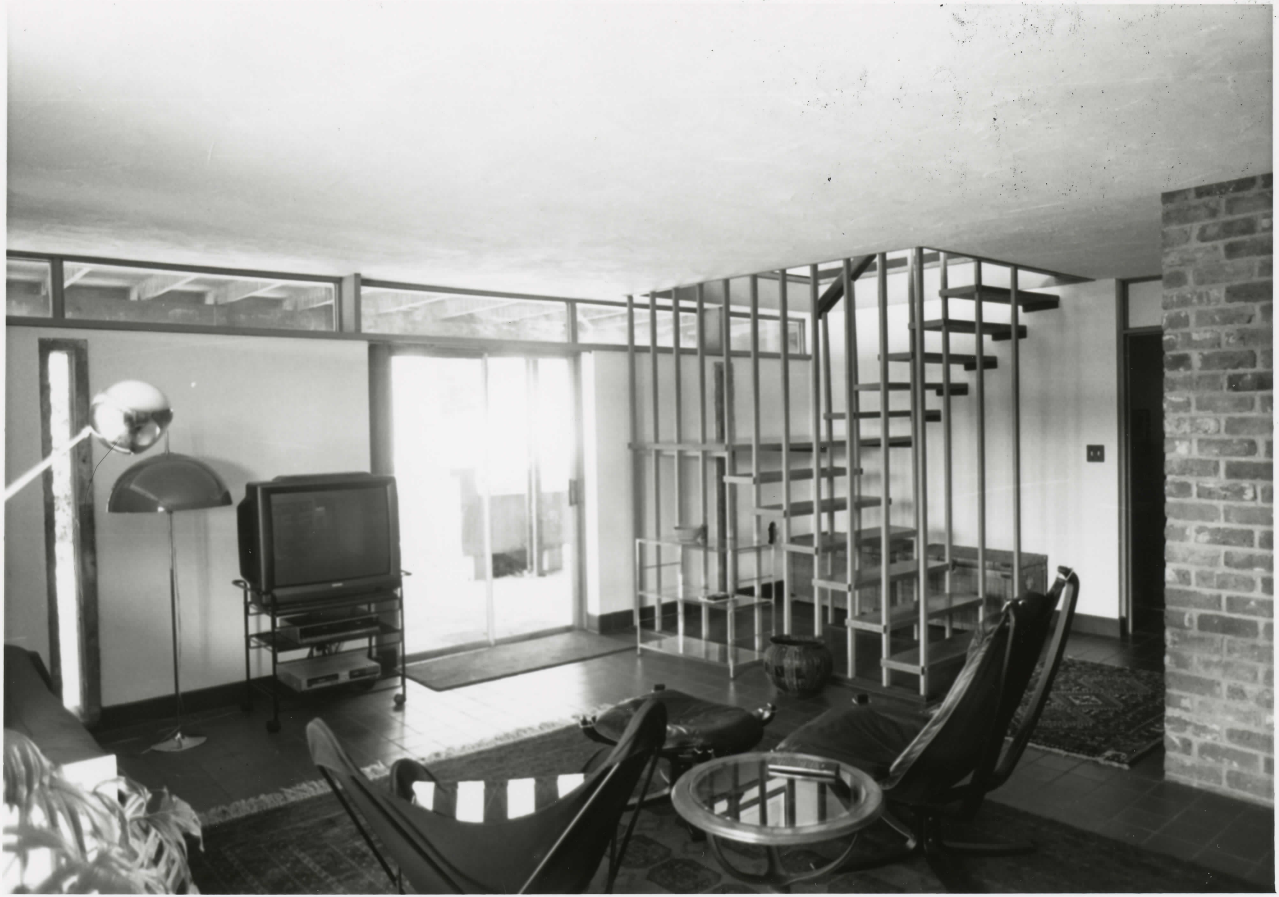
Currie House
Montgomery Co., VA
Photo 8 of 13



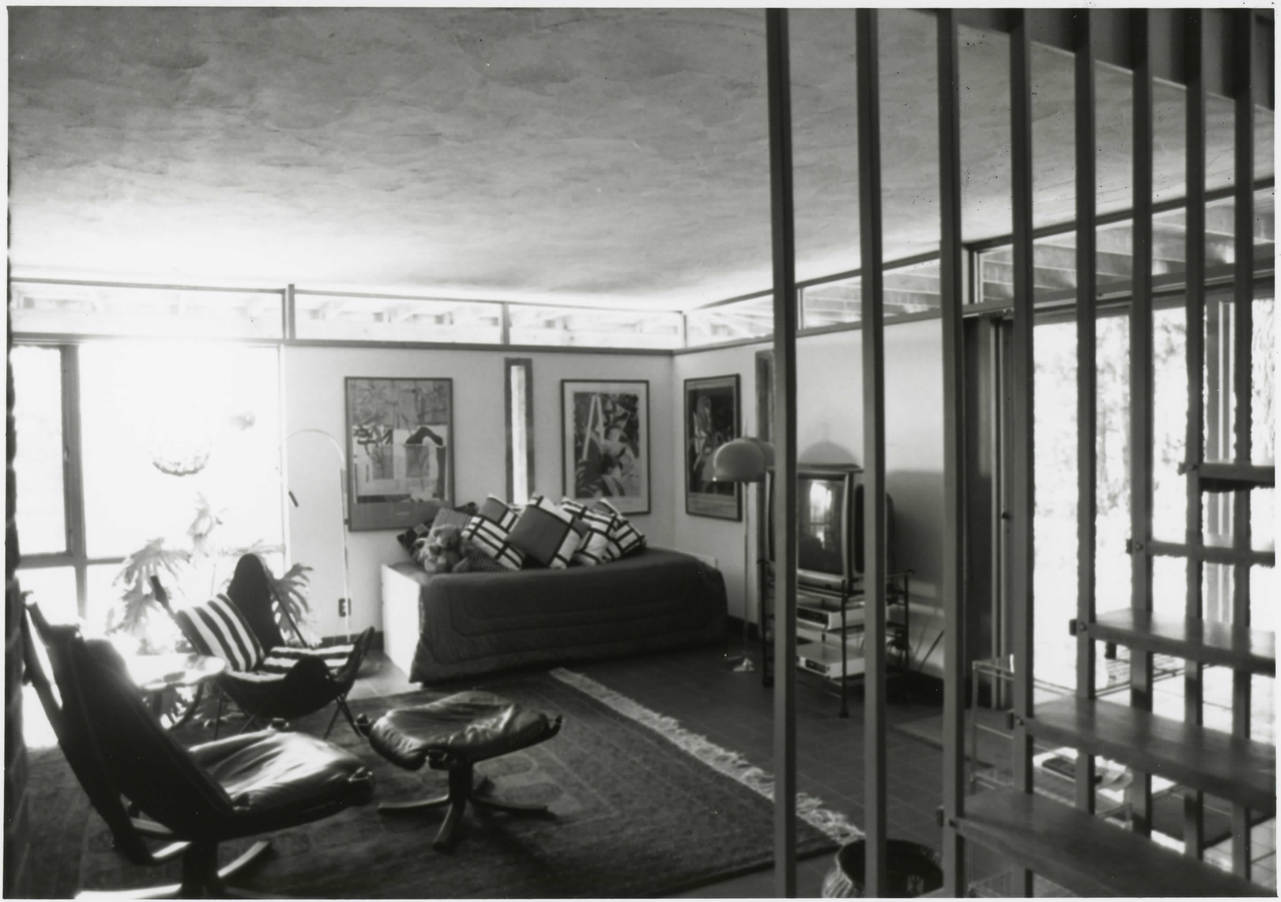
Currie House
Montgomery Co., VA
Photo 9 of 13



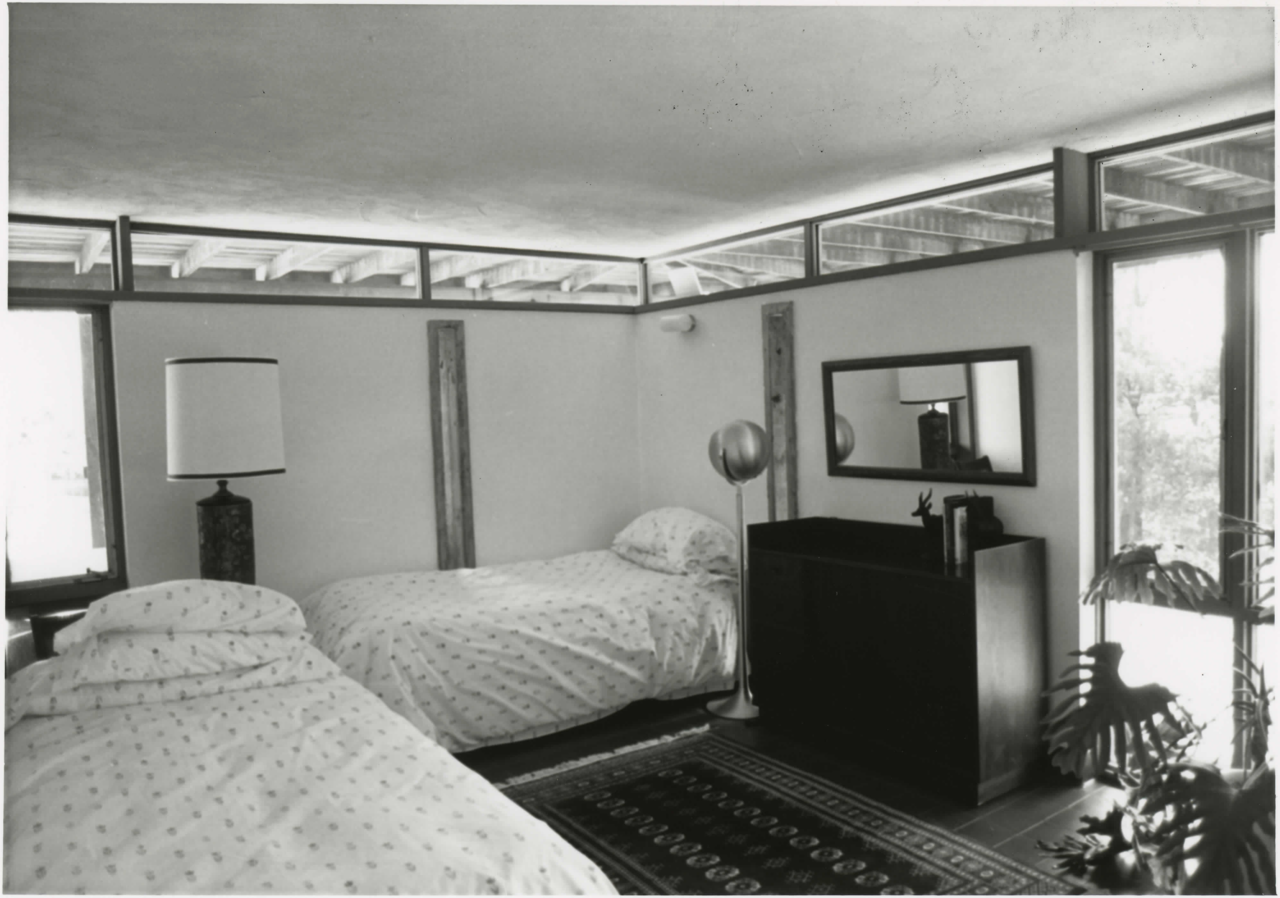
Currie House
Montgomery Co., VA
Photo 10 of 13



Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 11 of 13



Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 12 of 13



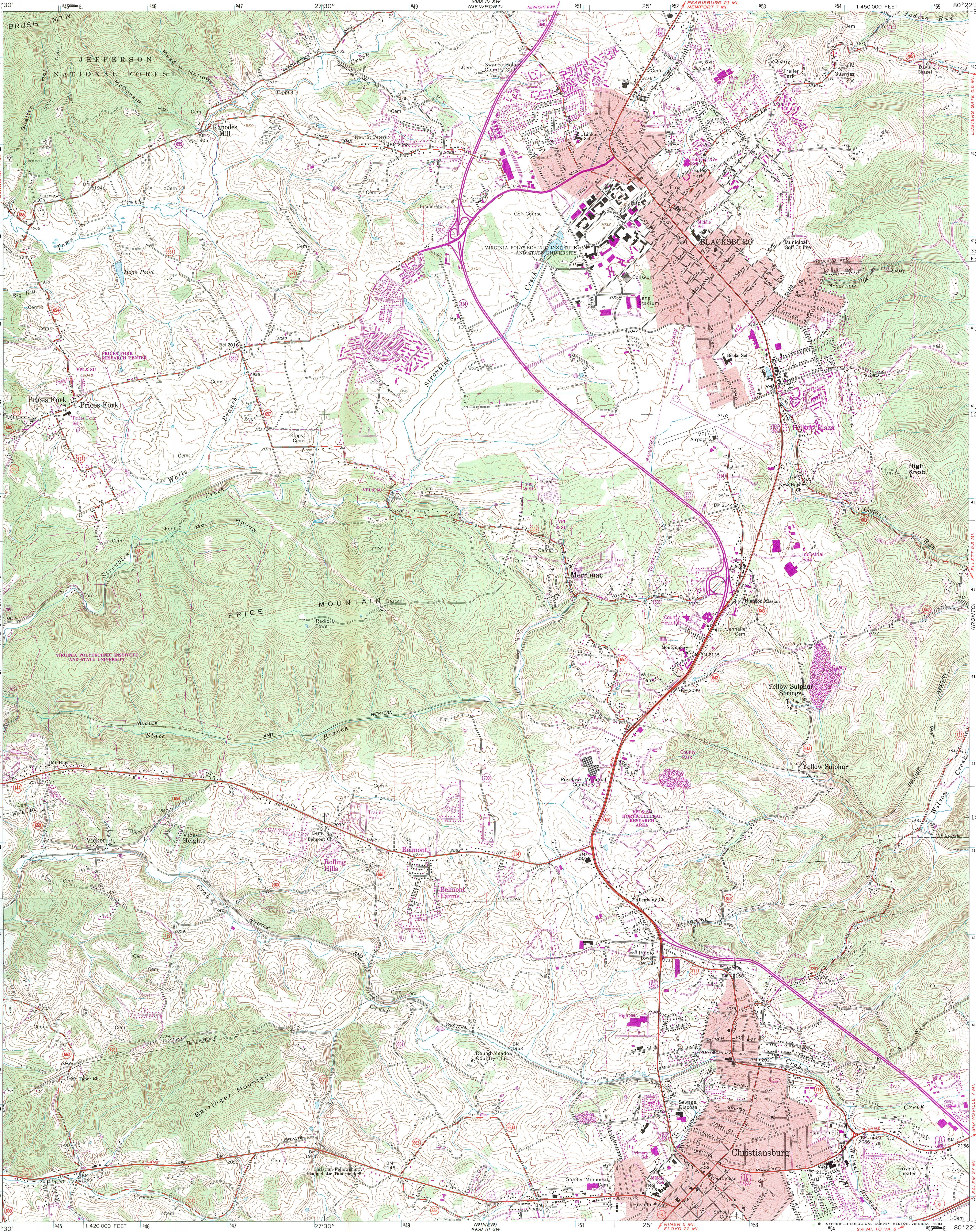
Currie House
Montgomery County, VA
Photo 13 of 13

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

Currie House

BLACKSBURG QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA–MONTGOMERY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)


4958 I SE (EGGLESTON)
4958 IV SE (MC DONALDS MILL)
80°30′
37°15′
4958 IV SW (NEWPORT)
NEWPORT 6 MI.
PEARISBURG 23 MI.
NEWPORT 7 MI.
1 450 000 FEET
80°22′30″
37°15′
BRUSH MTN
JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST
BLACKSBURG
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
330 000 FEET
Prices Fork
PRICE MOUNTAIN
Merrimac
Yellow Sulphur Springs
Christiansburg
300 000 FEET
37°07′30″
80°30′
1 420 000 FEET
(RINER) 4958 III SW
RINER 5 MI.
FLOYD 22 MI.
2.4 MI. TO VA. 8
WYTHEVILLE 41 MI.
80°22′30″
37°07′30″
4958 II SE (RADFORD SOUTH)
4958 II SE (PILOT)
INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1984

CURRIE HOUSE
(150-19)
17/553750/4119660
MONTGOMERY Co., VA

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

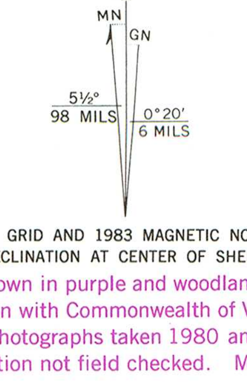
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 9 meters south and 18 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

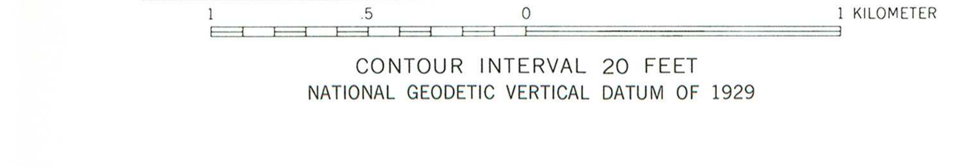
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map


MN
GN
5½°
98 MILS
0°20′
6 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1980 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1983

SCALE 1:24 000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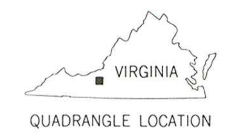
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
State Route	

BLACKSBURG, VA.

37080-B4-TF-024

1965
PHOTOREVISED 1983
DMA 4958 III NW–SERIES V834

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

JUN 16 1994

Hugh C. Miller, Director

Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

TDD: (804) 786-1934
Telephone (804) 786-3143
FAX: (804) 225-4261

RECEIVED 413

MAY 3 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 29, 1994

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC 20001

RE: **Currie House, Montgomery County, Virginia**

Dear Ms. Shull:

The enclosed nomination, Currie House, Montgomery County, Virginia, is submitted for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination has been considered by the State Review Board and there have been no owner objections received.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James Christian Hill

James Christian Hill
National Register Assistant

Enclosure

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

H. Alexander Wise, Jr., Director

221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Department of Historic Resources

RECEIVED 413

AUG 8 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 21, 1994

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC 20001

RE: **Currie House, Montgomery County, Virginia**

Dear Ms. Shull:

The enclosed nomination, Currie House, Montgomery County, Virginia, is submitted for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination has been considered by the State Review Board and there have been no owner objections received.

Please note the accompanying letters reflecting the installation of a new Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, H. Alexander Wise, and his conferral of signature authority on Julie L. Vosmik. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James Christian Hill

James Christian Hill
National Register Coordinator

Enclosure

TELEPHONE: (804) 786-3143 TDD: (804) 786-1934 FAX: (804) 225-4261

An Equal Opportunity Agency

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

George Allen
Governor

June 22, 1994

RECEIVED
AUG 8 1994
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mr. E. Blaine Cliver
Chief
Preservation Assistance Division
National Park Service
Post Office Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Cliver:

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Public Law 89-665, as amended, I hereby designate H. Alexander Wise, Jr., Director of the Department of Historic Resources, as the State Historic Preservation Officer. He has been delegated authority to represent the State in carrying out the responsibilities specified in the Act, and regulations and administrative requirements established for implementation of that Act.

With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

George Allen

George Allen

GA:j

c: The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop
Secretary of Natural Resources

State Capitol • Richmond, Virginia 23219 • (804) 786-2211 • TDD (804) 371-8015

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
H. Alexander Wise, Jr., Director
Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RECEIVED 413
AUG 8 1994
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 20, 1994

Mr. Jerry Rogers
Keeper
National Register
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I was recently appointed State Historic Preservation Officer for the Commonwealth of Virginia by Governor George Allen. Effective June 27, 1994, I replaced Hugh C. Miller; verification of this appointment is enclosed.

For the purposes of signing National Register nominations, I delegate signature authority to Julie L. Vosmik.

Sincerely,

H. Alexander Wise, Jr.

H. Alexander Wise, Jr.
Director

Enclosure

TELEPHONE: (804) 786-3143   TDD: (804) 786-1934   FAX: (804) 225-4261
An Equal Opportunity Agency